

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference SK04PCT00033	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/004288	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26 March 2004 (26.03.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 11 April 2003 (11.04.2003)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant SONY CORPORATION		

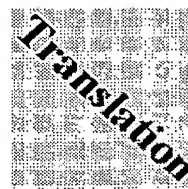
1.	This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 <i>bis</i> .1(a).																								
2.	<p>This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</p>																								
3.	<p>This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 30%;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																							
4.	The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).																								

<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35</p>	<p>Date of issuance of this report 02 March 2006 (02.03.2006)</p> <p>Authorized officer</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Masashi Honda</p> <p>Telephone No. +41 22 338 70 10</p>
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

SK04PCT00033

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004288

International filing date (day/month/year)

26.03.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

11.04.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

SONY CORPORATION

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004288

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/004288

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement							
1.	Statement							
	Novelty (N)	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td>4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-3, 6-8, 11-13, 16, 17, 20, 21</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims	4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23	YES	Claims	1-3, 6-8, 11-13, 16, 17, 20, 21	NO
Claims	4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23	YES						
Claims	1-3, 6-8, 11-13, 16, 17, 20, 21	NO						
	Inventive step (IS)	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-23</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims		YES	Claims	1-23	NO
Claims		YES						
Claims	1-23	NO						
	Industrial applicability (IA)	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-23</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims	1-23	YES	Claims		NO
Claims	1-23	YES						
Claims		NO						
2.	Citations and explanations:							
	<p>Document 1: JP, 2002-158654, A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 21 May, 2002 (21.05.02) Document 2: JP, 11-344925, A (NEC Corp.), 14 December, 1999 (14.12.99) Document 3: JP, 4-163768, A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 29 October, 1990 (29.10.90)</p> <p>Claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13, 16, 17, 20 and 21</p> <p>Document 1 describes a method for encoding digital content, recording, for example, on a recording medium, and distributing, in which (1) the picture data of MPEG data is divided into plural blocks, and (2) only some of the blocks are encoded, to reduce the volume of encoding/decoding processing (see paragraphs [0014]-[0021], [0057]-[0071] and [0080], and Figs. 1, 5 and 6).</p> <p>Decreasing the rate of blocks to be encoded, for reducing the volume of encoding/decoding processing, is considered to be a matter obvious to a person skilled in the art. So, "keeping the data size of the portion to be encoded sufficiently smaller than the data size of digital data" of claim 2 is considered to be performed naturally in the invention described in document 1.</p> <p>Furthermore, document 1 describes that (1) the moving image data of MPEG data is divided into picture data consisting of k frames per second, further dividing the picture data of each frame into plural blocks, (2) the picture data of each frame is further divided into plural blocks, and (3) some of the blocks are encoded (see paragraphs [0057]-[0071]). This corresponds to the constitution in the subject matter of claim 3, "(1) digital data is divided into digital data sets respectively having a predetermined size, and (2) some of the digital data in each of the divided digital data sets is encoded."</p> <p>So, the subject matters of 1-3, 6-8, 11-13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 do not appear to be novel in view of the description of document 1.</p> <p>Claims 4, 9, 14, 18 and 22</p> <p>Document 2 describes that the information specifying the portions to be encoded is transmitted as an information frame together with encoded data and non-encoded data (see paragraphs [0016]-[0042] and Figs. 4-11).</p> <p>A person skilled in the art could have easily used the technique described in document 2 in the invention described in document 1, to arrive at the constitution of claims 4, 9, 14, 18 and 22.</p> <p>Claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23</p> <p>Document 3 describes that management information containing the locations of encoded files is encoded and recorded in a recording medium together with the encoded files (see page 4, left column, line 10 to lower right column, line 13, and Figs. 3 and 7).</p> <p>A person skilled in the art could have easily applied the techniques described in documents 2 and 3 to the invention described in document 1, to arrive at the constitution of claims 5, 10, 15, 19 and 23.</p>							